

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02277 01 OF 02 241533Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01

TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 CU-02 /090 W

----- 108741

P R 241415Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8279

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT ET

SUBJ: EPMG RESHUFFLES CABINET, ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS

REF ADDIS ABABA 2219

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCED THAT SEVEN MINISTERS HAVE BEEN SACKED AND FIFTY-FIVE OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED, INCLUDING FOUR NEW MINISTERS. WE THEREFORE EXPECT MORE NEW APPOINTMENTS TO FOLLOW.  
END SUMMARY

1. RADIO ETHIOPIA, FEB 22, CARRIED EPMG ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF 55 GOVT OFFICIALS. NEW APPOINTMENTS INCLUDED FOUR MINISTERS, THREE PROVINCIAL CHIEF ADMINISTRATORS, SIX PROVINCIAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, AND SIX PERMANENT SECRETARIS. REMAINDER OF APPOINTMENTS ARE GENERALLY TO DEPT HEAD POSITIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02277 01 OF 02 241533Z

IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES OR TO MANAGERSHIPS OF SEMI-AUTONOMOUS GOVT AGENCIES.

2. FEB 24 ETHIOPIAN PRESS CARRIED FRONT PAGE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SEVEN CABINET MINISTERS HAVE BEEN RELIEVED OF THEIR POSTS AND SAID THAT GOVT OFFICIALS MUST CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH DETERMINATION, EFFICIENCY, AND DEDICATION TO DUTY, WITHOUT HESITATION OR FEAR. IN VIEW OF THIS, STATEMENT NOTED, EPMG DECIDED TO REPLACE THE SEVEN MINISTERS AND WOULD TAKE SIMILAR STEPS AGAINST A NUMBER OF DEPT HEADS. STATEMENT, ALSO REPEATED BY PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFER BANTE, THANKED OUTGOING MINISTERS AND NOTED THAT GOVT WILL GIVE THE FORMER OFFICIALS FULL SUPPORT TO HELP THEM HELP THEMSELVES AND SERVE THEIR COUNTRY IN PRIVATE CAPACITY. COMMENT: INITIAL MIN/INFO PRESS RELEASE ON NEW APPOINTEES, WHICH WAS HASTILY WITHDRAWN BUT MAY, ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS, HAVE BEEN AIRED LAST NIGHT (FEB 23), STATED THAT MINS WHO HAD BEEN RELIEVED OF THEIR POSTS HAD BEEN DETAINED. THREE OF SQR FORMER MINISTERS WERE, HOWEVER, SEEN APPARENTLY AT LIBERTY AFTERNOON OF FEB 23. WE ARE THUS SOMEWHAT INCERTAIN AS TO THEIR CURRENT STATUS. END COMMENT

3. THE SEVEN MINISTERS WHO WERE RELIEVED ARE: MIN OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AT TEKALIGH GEDAMU; MIN OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AT MOHAMMED ABDURAHMAN; MIN OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ATO TADESSE TEREFE; MIN OF FINANCE, AT NEGASH DESTA; MIN OF WORKS AND HOUSING, COL SEMERET MEDHANE; MIN OF HEALTH, DR. JEMAL ABDULKADIR; AND MIN OF INFO AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE, MAJ YACOB GEBRE-EGZIABIHER.

4. PROMINENT NEW APPOINTEES ARE:

-- DR. TEFERA WONDE, MIN OF HEALTH. DR. TEFERA, A ZOOLOGIST OR POSSIBLY CHEMIST, TRAINED IN GERMANY, WAS PREVIOUSLY HEAD OF THE CENTRAL LABORATORY IN ADDIS. HE MAY HAVE WORKED FOR A TIME AS A SCIENTIST IN THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE. HE DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME STATURE AND COMPETENCE OF HIS PREDECESSOR.

-- ATO TEFERA HAILE-SELASSIE, MIN OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. DEPT WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL BIO HOLDINGS ON TEFERA, THE FORMER PERMSEC IN THE MIN OF LABOR.

CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02277 01 OF 02 241533Z

-- ATO YUSUF AHMED, MIN OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS. THE FORMER PERMSEC IN THAT MINISTRY SINCE AUG 75, AVAILABLE BIO INFO WAS FORWARDED TO DEPT AT THE TIME OF THAT APPOINTMENT.

-- ATO DANIEL TADESSE, MIN OF WORKS AND HOUSING. (NOT DANIEL DESTA AS PER REFTTEL). DANIEL WAS REPORTEDLY A MIDDLE-LEVEL EMPLOYEE OF THE MIN OF HOUSING, AND ONE OF THIS COLLEAGUES HAS JUDGED HIM TO BE COMPETENT ALTHOUGH NOT OF THE

CALIBER OF THE FORMER MIN, COL SEMERET.

-- COL KALE-KRISTOS ABAY, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF TIGRAI REGION. COL KALE-KRISTOS HAS MOST RECENTLY SERVED AS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR ERITREA WHERE HE HAS DON A GENERALLY CREDITABLE JOB, AND HAS COOPERATED WELL WITH AMERICANS. KALE-KRISTOS IS TO BE REPLACED IN ERITREA BY COL YESHITILA GOSSEN EX-POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR ADDIS AND SHOA. YESHITILA HAS ALSO BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH US HERE.

-- DR. MAKONNEN JOTE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF SHOA REGION. DR. MAKONNEN IS REPORTEDLY A VETERINARIAN WHO RECEIVED HIS DEGREE FROM THE USSR. HE REPLACES DR. BANTEYEHU GELAW WHO HAS MADE US SCERET OF HIS DESIRE TO RETURN TO HIS WORK AS AN AGRONOMIST AND LEAVE POLITICS TO OTHERS.

-- DR. GIRMA TOLOSSA, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF ARUSSI REGION. EMB HAS NO INFO ON DR. GIRMA.

- ATO HENOK KIFLE, PERMSEC OF THE MIN OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT. THE SON OF AN IMPORTANT OLD ORDER FIGURE, HENOK HAS A PAST HISTORY AS A RADICAL ACTIVIST STUDENT. ALTHOUGH TEMRED BY SOME OLD ORDER FIGURES AS RADICAL, PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED WITH HIM HAVE CALLED HIM A QUIET, LIBERAL TECHNOCRAT (SEE ADDS A-223). HE WAS REPORTEDLY A FORMER MANAGER OF CADU. FORMER MINISTER OF PLANNING PAULOS ABRAHAM REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED HENOK FOR A HIGH MIN AGRICULTURE POSITION.

-- ATO TEFAYE TADESSE GEBRE-HEYWOT, PERMSEC OF THE MIN OF INFO AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE. ATO TEFAYE HAS PREVIOUSLY  
CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ADDIS 02277 01 OF 02 241533Z

SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN JOURNALISTS ASSOC. AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS HEAD OF RADIO ETHIOPIA. WHILE A STUDENT AT HAILE SELASSI U. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF A PROJECT INITIATED AND RUN BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO TEACH LITERACY DURING SUMMER VACATION. SINCE A REPLACEMENT FOR THE OUSTED FORMER MIN HAS NOT BEEN NAMED, TEFAYE WILL ALSO BE ACTING MIN. EVEN THOUGH THE PREVIOUS MIN OF INFO WAS A DIRG APPOINTEE WHO HAD LONG BEEN RESIDENT IN YUGOSLAVIA AND THUS HAD GOOD SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS, WE HAVE HEARED THAT HE WAS OUSTED BECAUSE HE DID NOT GET ALONG WITH THE NUMEROUS "RADICALS" IN THE MIN OF INFO -- POSSIBLY TEFAY'S APPOINTMENT IS A CONCESSION TO THESE RADICALS. ONE RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH TEFAYE INDICATES HE MAY BE A DOCTRINAIRE LEFTIST/MARXIST. IN ANY EVENT HIS APPOINTMENT FILLS THE POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY ABEBE ANDUALEM CURRENTLY VISITING EASTERN EUROPE IN THE DEL OF ETHIOPIAN NEWSMEN HEADED BY THE DIRG'S COL ASRATE DESTA. ALTHGOUGH ABEBE'S SELECTION FOR THIS TRIP COULD HAVE BEEN READ AS A PROMISING OMEN, HE REMAINED VULNERABLE TO

DROUGHT COVER-UP CHARGES FOR WHICH HE WAS BRIEFLY JAILED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02277 02 OF 02 241540Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SCCT-01 CU-02 /090 W

----- 108880

P R 241415Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8280

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2277

-- ATO TADELE MENGESHA, PERMSEC OF THE MIN OF HEALTH.  
TADELE, A FORMER AID PARTICIPANT, HAS A BA IN PUBLIC  
HEALTH AND AN MS IN PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SERVICES.  
HE WAS FORMERLY THE HEAD OF THE MIN HEALTH PLANNING UNIT.  
ONE OF THE THREE MIN HEALTH EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE RISEN RAPIDLY SINCE  
THE REVOLUTION, TADELE IS CONSIDERED LIBERAL BUT NOT RADICAL.

-- ATO YIRGA TESSEMA, PERMSEC OF THE MIN OF TRANSPORT AND  
COMMUNICATIONS. A STUDENT ACTIVIST DURING HIS DAYS  
AT HAILE SELASSIE E., YIRGA WAS CRITICALLY WOUNDED BY GOVT TROOPS  
IN A CAMPUS SHOOTING INCIDENT IN 1969 AND WAS NOT EXPECTED  
TO LIVE. YIRGA, WHO HAS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE,  
HAS SERVED AS AN AURAJA GOVERNOR IN HARRAGHE PROVINCE SINCE  
FEB 75.

-- ATO GETNET ZEWDE, PERMNSEC OF THE MIN OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

A FORMER AID PARTICIPANT, GETNET HAS A BA FROM HAILE SELASSIE U  
CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02277 02 OF 02 241540Z

AND AN MA FROM THE US IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING. HE  
HAS PREVIOUSLY WORKED AS A JUNIOR SECONDARY TEACHER AND IN THE  
MIN OF LABOR.

-- ATO TEFAYE MARU, PERMSEC OF THE MIN OF WORKS AND HOUSING.  
A FORMER EXCHANGE STUDENT TO THE US IN 1963-64, TEFAYE REPORTEDLY  
ENCOUNTERED SEVERE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHICH EMBITTERED  
HIM ABOUT THE US. HE HAS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING  
FROM HAILE SELASSIE U WHERE HE WAS NOTED FOR HIS ANTI-REGIME,  
ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES AND SERVED AS A CONGRESSMAN FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION OF ADDIS ABABA. TEFAYE ALSO HAS AN MA  
IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FROM THE US UNDER AID  
SPONSORSHIP.

-- MESSRS. TEFAYE MEKASHA, WOLLE CHEKOL, AND  
TESFAY TADESSE ARE APPOINTED TO HEAD DEPTS (UNSPECIFIED)  
IN MOFA. THEY HAVE YET TO BE TOLD WHICH ONES. BERHANU DINKA,  
ALSO APPOINTED TO A DEPT HEAD POSITION IN MOFA, HAS TOLD US  
PRIVATELY THAT HE BELIEVES HE WILL HEAD AFRICAN DEPT  
TESFAYE MEKASHA, OF COURSE, IS NOW HEAD OF THE UN DEPT  
IN THAT MIN WHICH WOULD SEEM HEADED FOR FURTHER  
REORGANIZATION.

5. EMB WILL FORWARD REMAINDER OF NEW APPOINTEES AND  
BIO INFO BY AIRGRAM.

6. COMMENT: GOVT HAS CONDUCTED CAMPAIGN AGAINST BUREAUCRATIC  
TIMIDITY AND INACTION IN THE PRESS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.  
ALTHOUGH THIS BUREAUCRATIC INACTION WAS DUE IN LARGE PART TO THE  
FEAR WHICH PREVIOUS DIRG ARRESTS OF TOP-LEVEL BUREAUCRATS HAD  
ENGENDERED AND DIRG'S FAILURE TO GIVE ANY REAL AUTHORITY TO  
MINS, EPMG NO DOUBT HOPES THAT NEW APPOINTEES -- WHO APPEAR  
GENERALLY YOUNG, LIBERAL (BUT MOSTLY NOT RADICAL), AND AGGRESSIVE --  
WILL TAKE ACTION AND MAKE DECISIONS ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

7. SINCE MOST OF THE APPOINTEES ARE RELATIVELY UNKNOWN, WE  
PRESUME THAT THEY HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES IN THEIR FORMER POSITIONS,  
GENERALLY WITHIN THE SAME MINISTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE NOW BEEN  
APPOINTED. THEIR DESIGNATION MAY ALSO REFLECT THE DIRG'S CONVICTION  
THAT THEY ARE MORE RELIABLE BECAUSE LESS TAINTED BY OLD ORDER  
CONNECTIONS AND HABITS. AS TO THE OUSTED OFFICIALS, WE HAD  
CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02277 02 OF 02 241540Z

HEARD AS EARLY AS LAST JULY THAT MOST MINISTERS AND PROVINCIAL  
ADMINISTRATORS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE REPLACED. WE NOTE HERE,

HOWEVER, THAT BOTH THE MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MIN  
OF DEFENSE, WHO ACCORDING TO SOME WERE AMONG THOSE WHO WOULD  
SOON BE REPLACED (WHILE OTHERS THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE KEPT ON  
TO REASSURE THE US), FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, RETAIN  
THEIR JOBS. STILL FURTHER APPOINTMENTS MAY SOON BE  
FORTHCOMING TO FILL THE MINISTERIAL POSITIONS LEFT  
VACANT AT THIS STAGE -- OTHER DISMISSALS ARE NOT  
EXCLUDED. OUR INFO ON THE NEW RANKING  
INCUMBENTS IS TOO FRAGMENTARY TO PERMIT ANY CONCLUSIONS,  
HOWEVER TENTATIVE, ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE CABINET'S ETHNIC  
COMPOSITION. WE CAN SAY ON THE OTHER HAND THAT NONE OF THE  
NEW APPOINTEES HAVE THE STATUS IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY  
ENJOYED BY DR. MOHAMMED ABDURAHAM.  
HUMMEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ADDIS02277  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760069-0132  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaasaj.tel  
**Line Count:** 291  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ADDIS ABABA 2219  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EPMG RESHUFFLES CABINET, ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006